Workers registered under NREGA

985. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total workers who have registered their names in NREGA, men and women workers who have got 100 days employment in 2007 and 2008 and the percentage of women workers and SC and ST workers;

(b) whether in some States NREGA funds have been misused as per the report NGO and CAG and in some other States funds have been used as per the whim of State Governments and work done by constructors, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in some States the fund earmarked for employment has been taken by the State Government as 28 per cent royalty for earth and Murram?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) A household is the basic unit under NREGA. Data pertaining to households who have completed 100 days of employment is maintained at the central level. During the year 2007-08, 6.48 crore households were registered and issued job cards under the Act. 3601926 households completed 100 days of employment. A total of 143.59 crore persondays of employment was generated during 2007-08 out of which 61.15 (43%) were women persondays; 39.36 (27%) were for SC and 42.07 (29%) were for ST workers. During the current year (2008-09, up to January, 09) 9.79 crore households have been registered and issued job cards under the Act. 2896270 households have completed 100 days of employment. A total of 157.24 crore persondays of employment have been generated out of which 75.68 (48%) are women persondays; 46.54 (30%) are for SC and 39.37 (25%) are for ST workers

(b) C&AG had undertaken performance audit of NREGA for the period 2006-07. In his report 9 cases of diversion and irregular expenditure in 8 States have been reported. These instances occurred due to non-adherence to the NREGA guidelines by the concerned authorities. 2 cases of corruption and irregularities in the implementation of NREGA one each in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have been reported by an NGO called Centre for Environment and Food Security. 6 cases of engagements of contractors in NREGA works have also been reported from two States. State Governments have submitted their detailed response to the observations made by C&AG.

(c) Royalty for earth and Murram is charged by the State Government of Orissa under a State Act.

Disparity in minimum wages in different States under NREGA

986. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether different minimum wages in different States encourage the migration; and

(b) whether NREGA could bring a parity in minimum wages and include all NREGA worker in social security schemes like EPF, ESIC, gratuity and pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Minimum wages prevalent in a State are fixed by the respective State Governments under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. No case of encouraged migration have been reported so far due to different minimum wages in different States.

(b) Initially, the wage rate for agricultural labourers notified by the States under Minimum Wages Act was adopted as wage rate under NREGA in accordance with Section 6(2) of NREG Act. Central Government has notified wage rate under NREGA for different States *vide* notification dated 1st January, 2009.

Aim of NREGA is to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Benefits like EPF, ESIC, Pension and gratuity are available to the workers of organized sector. NREGA workers are casual workers and do not belong to any organized sector. Therefore, the benefits of EPF, ESIC, Pension and Gratuity are not extendable to NREGA workers. However, in order to ensure that NREGA workers are also provided with social security schemes in addition to benefits already available under the Act, Government has decided to include them under the "Rural Poor" Category of Janshree Bima Yojana and to extend the benefits of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.

Ongoing schemes and projects in Uttar Pradesh

987. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing schemes and projects of the Ministry in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of complaints and suggestions received in regard thereto;

(c) the action taken thereon and amount involved in each scheme/project; and

(d) whether the full allocated budgeted allocation was spent by the Ministry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The ongoing major schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NRGEA), Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programmes (IWMP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) etc.